

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST FRANCIS ASHTON GATE BRISTOL

England & Wales - Charity number 1203799

Details

Other names ST FRANCIS PCC, ASHTON GATE BRISTOL

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2023-06-29

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: Bring the word of God to the congregation and wider community through services, pray groups, bible study, social events etc.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bristol City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£113,623	£120,476	-	-
2023-12-31	£65,385	£57,772	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Christopher Paul Allen	Chair	2024-04-21
ANITA MAY MANNING		2022-05-08
Andrew Mark Josham		2024-04-21
Anne Howell Tyas		2024-04-21
David John Lane		2024-04-21
Dianne Elizabeth Allen		2024-04-21
Joanne Smith		2024-04-21
Julie Anne Clash		2024-04-21
Mary Clark Frost		2024-04-21
Sally Barrington Tooze		2024-04-21
Stephen Smith		2024-04-21

Accounts



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St Francis Ashton Gate

18th April 2025

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Minutes of Previous APCM

Sunday 21st April 2024

Held at St. Francis, Ashton at 10:30

Present: 29

Apologies: None

Minutes of Meeting held on 8th May 2022 were read and accepted. No matters arising. Proposed & Seconded. 14 people voted. Non abstained. Passed unanimously.

Electoral Roll report.

The roll stands at 41 for the parish.

Financial report

See Treasurer's report 'Report – Treasurer 2022'. Also, 'St F Financial Statement 2022'.

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

See Churchwardens Report 'Report – Churchwardens Report 2022'.

Scramblers

See Scramblers Report 'Report – Scramblers 2022'.

Worship

See Worship Report 'Report – Worship 2022' and 'Report – 2nd Sunday Family Service'.

Flowers

See Church Flowers Report 'Report – Flowers 2022'.

Elections to PCC & Deanery Synod

Mary Frost (this will be the 3rd and final year)
Parochial Church Council (Lay)

1	Anita Manning (Treas)
2	
3	Dianne Allen
4	Stephen Smith
5	
6	Shelia Lilliman

Independent Examiner

Matthew Hedges re-elected as independent examiner.

Any other APCM business

Meeting finished at 11:15 with prayer.

Clergy report

What a year we have had with so many good news stories to share; new activities have started, and old ones have been developed.

At the APCM last year, I shared from Ephesians 4, and we talked about how the church might mature and grow. We looked at the 5 different voices the church needs and how we, together, express these voices whether it is apostolic (pioneer), prophetic (creative), evangelist (connector), teacher (guardian and protector) or pastor (nurturer). We have started to see some of these voices grow louder across our church's communities and we are starting to see new people join. As church, we do have the challenge of enfolding these new people into the consistent life of the church, but it has been such a blessing to meet the numbers of new people through this year. One area we have seen a significant increase in the church is the numbers of banns being read across the two churches. In 2024, we read the banns for 14 couples and many of them were new families who had more recently moved into the area.

At the start of this year, we added a new team member, and it was a delight to license Rev Anthony Everett as a self-supporting associate minister across the two parishes. In July, we also welcomed Rev Helena Whitwell as a self-supporting curate to the team, and they have both been a blessing to our worship communities. During this year, we have also had a change of parish administrator with Helen Rumford leaving for a new role and Kat Cumner joining us in November. We are so thankful for all the work that Helen has done for the church.

In our teaching series this year, we have spent some time looking at the story of Jesus through the book of Mark as well as looking at the Eucharist in more depth and the question, 'what is discipleship?' The phrase that has most impacted me through this series was the quote from

John Mark Comer 'discipleship is like an apprentice who is learning to 'be with Jesus, become like Jesus and then do as Jesus did!' As a church, we want to keep learning this important rhythm for our lives.

As churches, we are now beginning to find our patterns of worship for Christmas and Easter and we are starting to grow in confidence as we look to be more open in our invitation of people to these events.

As well as the two sets of banns, one infant baptism at the church and have connected with three families in the community for family funerals.

As a church, we also have an amazing PCC who give so much time and energy to ensure the building and people are safe and financed. Thank you to each and every one of our PCC for their time. We are thankful to all those who work behind the scenes to make sure the church is ready for Sundays – whether it is music practice, flower arranging, set up the church – thank you to each and every one of you.

When a house is being restored, the work on the foundations of the house is so important so that everything else can be built to last. We are in a season where the focus is still on the foundations which means that some of this work is hidden but the benefits to us is that this work, when completed, will ensure that we have strong, vibrant, worshipping communities that, I believe, will see even more than we could ever ask or imagine in the years to come.

Licensed Lay Ministers

Churchwardens

At the beginning of the year, we were extremely pleased to welcome Anthony Everitt as Associate Minister to join us. His traditional style of worship was welcomed by the congregation. It is also exciting that we are also open to trying new things whilst still maintaining our traditional worship. This makes us unique, and we are very proud of the way we adapt. We also have Helena, Sophie and Grace on the worship team and are very grateful for their contribution and continue to be grateful for the ministry of Sally and Andrew.

We continue to have all age service with the cheeky pandas once a month and are excited to be exploring the possibility of this service taking place every week at the beginning of 2025. We are grateful for the work put in by Jennifer, Katherine and Grace. It has been lovely to see the younger people taking part in these services. The contemporary evening service takes place every other Sunday and has attracted people from other churches within the Bristol South Deanery. Neil, Jennifer, Grace, Dianne and I attended a day in Birmingham about Worship Together in May. It was very helpful and provided ideas on how we can get all ages worshipping together. I took from this that if we are to grow it is not about children's services

or adult services but about how we can all be integrated working together. It is extremely important that we embrace this.

Neil continues to get on with things and we thank him for his organisational skills and heart for mission and pastoral care and for the fun and enthusiasm he continues to bring to the Parochial Church Council meetings.

We continue to see small signs of growth with new people attending, some on a regular basis. We have always ensured they receive a warm welcome and they are given a welcome card to complete to enable us to keep in touch with them.

We continued our role as a collection Centre for Operation Christmas Child and are very grateful to all who packed shoeboxes and got involved and engaged with this Missional Opportunity. We thank the Scramblers team Annie and Louise who were on hand every morning during collection week to receive the shoeboxes from Scramblers as well as the local community and oversee the collection of the shoeboxes on the next part of their journey. The conversations we had with people were amazing and the packing party proved a great success as we encouraged people, particularly the young ones, to personalise their boxes by writing a short note and placing a picture in their boxes. The feedback I have also received from the drivers is that they love collecting from St Francis as all our boxes are organized in the corridor making their job easier.

Christmas through the Keyhole happened again in early December, and we are extremely grateful to Mary who took the lead on this with her organizational skills. The year 2 children and their teachers from Ashton Gate School were really engaging.

Unfortunately, our dear Phil Neale is now in a home, and we miss him being around the church (his second home). He continues to be in our thoughts and prayers. We are so grateful to him for all he has done for the church, and I personally am grateful to Chris who has stepped up to take on some of the tasks such as organising services.

We are thankful for all the things which have happened and are happening and look forward to working together in 2025 to act out Gods plan for us at St Francis in the future.

Joanne Smith & Christopher Allen

Finance

Overall, the state of the church finances is healthy, we are not near to running out of money. However there has been some worrying trends within the year that we need to take note of and act upon.

In 2024 the amount in the church and centre bank accounts fell by just over £7,500, but we still have sufficient savings which increased by around 1.5%, benefitting from the increase in interest rates.

Total (church and hall) income increased by nearly 4%, but this was solely due to 2 kindly donated legacies that stopped the actual total being less than last year. Total expenditure also increased by 11.5%.

Income year highlights:

- 2 x Legacies received totalling £5,500.
- Total church giving increased by just over £1,000.
- Scramblers income has plateaued with a marginal increase of £241.
- Rents for the Centre and Church hire have increased by 11.5%.
- Parish Share increased by £150 per month to an annual total of £21,600.

Expenditure year highlights:

- Salaries have increased by over a third. This is mainly due to the hiring of an employed administrator and also the government putting up the national minimum wage and us having to proportionally increasing our salary bands to match.
- Office administration costs increased by 40% to just under £4,500.

Having seen the first real dip in our finances for a few years and also the unknown cost of the work on the roof (the scaffolding alone cost around £6,000) the PCC have started this year with some in depth analysis of our income and costs with the goal to increase and decrease the amounts respectively. This will hopefully be done by promotion of our renting opportunities and rationalising costs.

From Anita Manning, Treasurer

[also see audited accounts as an additional document]

Scramblers

Scramblers Report for APSM for Jan-Dec 2024

I would like to start by thanking Louise, my wonderful colleague, Malcolm, Grace and all our amazing volunteers for ensuring another outstanding year of providing this vital, supportive, community group at St.Francis.

Our volunteers this year have been stable with Jude, Mary, Elaine, Martha and Zoe. Martha returned home to Equador in the spring and Elaine stepped in to replace her on Wednesdays. We were blessed with Grace joining the team this year initially on Mondays, but she has been regularly supporting us on other days as well. Grace has involved families in many memorable craft sessions and has supported families by always being a friendly welcoming helper. Helena has also been supporting us once a week and initiated a weekly guided prayer session online.

We continue to offer a safe, warm and welcoming space for all parents, carers and their little ones. The number of families attending this year has been stable with an average of 35-40 per session. We have seen an increase in grandparents and dads attending the group.

Some of the extra events we organised in 2024 included two visits from Noah's Ark Zoo farm who bring a selection of creatures for an interactive "meet & greet" session with the families. Also, Chris Brown performed twice with his very popular puppet show. Janie from the Art company "Creation Station" organised very professional crafting keepsakes for families for Valentines, Mother's Day & Easter.

In 2024 we trialled offering toddler lunches straight after the scrambler's session. Our first was an organic tomato pasta with fresh vegetables. We were very grateful for extra help from Dot, Elaine and volunteers from the "cuppa & chat" group. The first lunch was very successful with families thoroughly enjoying sharing a communal meal together. We followed this with another lunch of pizza and a third sausage meal.

We held a cake sale in June with proceeds to 'Mothers for Mothers' charity. Daisy Picking from the fair rent charity "Shelter" came along to talk to families experiencing problems with rentals, and Chris (Helena's husband) came to a few sessions to talk about the charity he works for called "safe families" who support those struggling in our community.

Louise and I have experimented with reading stories at circle time with dressing up / acting with "We're going on a bear hunt" and "Where's Spot".

The summer term weather in 2024 was dire and we hardly used the garden as we usually do with the bouncy castle and water play. However, we involved the children in nature trails with the families hunting for various things in the garden including our statue of St. Francis.

Scramblers parents as usual contributed generously to the shoebox appeal and we packed a record number. Similarly, the trolley for the harvest appeal for the foodbank was generously filled.

We closed for the summer break and provided a fellowship buffet lunch in Church for all the volunteers as well as Sam and the crew from St. Mikes Scramblers on the Hill.

Our autumn term was busy as usual. We held a light party at All Hallows and invited our special guest "Elsa from Frozen" from a costume character company. This event is extremely popular with the families, so much so we rebooked Elsa for another appearance that term.

We reinstated our yellow collection bin for the charity "Babybank" which collects donations of toiletries, clothes and equipment for those in need. We have continued to build on our relationship with Mothers for Mothers, the charity group that meet in Church on Thursdays

to support women with perinatal mental health. We continue to offer members of this group free entry to scramblers.

This year was exceptionally successful with our Christmas Parties. We held a party every day for 50 families in the last week of term. Tickets were sold in advance and all sold out. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of help and support from all our St. Francis family.

The “cuppa & a chat” ladies wrapped over 300 book gifts for the children and we are ever thankful to Chris Allen, Walter Hennessy & Malcolm for dressing up as Father Christmas and delighting our families. Chris also was a life saver by stepping in last minute when one of our Father Christmas’ couldn’t make it. Anita, Dot & Lynne also gave up time to help.

Neil gave an amazing telling of the Nativity with knitted characters and had the children transfixed. Jonathan Etheridge played festive tunes on the piano and the Baby choir serenaded us. Chris Brown the puppet man volunteered his time with entertainment one party as well.

This year we returned to providing a festive buffet rather than the food bags which we had offered since Covid times.

We continue to encourage scramblers families to join our Church family. This year a group of parents came to the Nativity service for the first time and we are delighted that Elaine our volunteer has become a regular in our congregation.

We closed 2024 with a celebration Christmas lunch for staff and volunteers from scramblers and scramblers on the Hill.

We praise The Lord that he continues to bless us, our volunteers, the families we serve and everyone involved.

Please continue to pray for us.

Annie Tyas (Scramblers)

Safeguarding

The Parish of St Francis is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

The PSO for St Francis is: Dianne Allen

Policies

The noticeboard situated just inside the main church door contains photos and contact details of the PSO and current policies.

Reporting to the PCC

The PCC was updated about Safeguarding matters in all the PCC meetings this year. During the year there were no safeguarding matters arising within the Church, and no issues which needed to be reported on to the Diocesan Safeguarding team.

Action Plan

All safeguarding policies are in date and to be reviewed.

All DBS Checks and Safeguarding Training is in date.

Flowers

Thank you to everyone who has given donations during 2024.

Opening Balance (Jan 2024)	£36.82
Income	
Donations	£115.00
Anita (Treasurer)	£350.00
Expenditure	£400.00
Closing Balance	£101.82

Church & Centre Bookings

The Church has 6 regular bookings on a weekly basis,

- Riff Raff Choir
- Ladies Group
- Mothers for Mothers
- Afterschool Choir
- Handfuls of Harmony
- Music Makers

as well as the Afternoon Social. The Church has also been used on several occasions for music concerts / workshops,

- Band Rehearsal
- Music for Miniatures (x3 occasions)

The Centre has 14 regular bookings on a weekly basis,

- Over 50's Keep Fit

- Adult Ballet (x3 a week)
- Creative Dance
- 48th Bristol Brownies
- 48th Bristol Guides
- Adventure Babies
- Bring Your Own Baby Choir
- 104th St. Francis Brownies
- Flow Pilates (x3 a week)
- Wet Clinic
- Dog Training
- Pilates
- Les Petits Zouzous
- Jive Fusion

As well as bookings for a short period of time,

- Soccortots (Jan - March)
- Dance Workshop (end of Jan - Mar)
- Rock Out Baby (Jan - July)

The Centre has also seen several 'one-off' bookings, some from the same organisation and birthday parties,

- Swing Dance Festival (x4 occasions)
- Explorer Dome (x6 occasions)
- Birthday Parties (x47 occasions)
- Polling Day (x2 occasions)
- Tobacco Factory Arts Trust (x2 occasions)
- Bristol School of Acting (x2 occasions)
- One-off bookings (x4 occasions)

The Church continues to support Community Initiatives with local advertising as well as reminding the community we are here.

Action Plan

1. Register the Centre for an address
2. Sorting out rubbish & recycling bins for the Church & Centre
3. Review our Bookings Terms & Conditions for the Church & Centre
4. Review birthday party bookings – maximise booking slots

Independent Examiner's Report
to the Parochial Church Council of St Francis Church, Ashton Gate, Bristol

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions give by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Matthew Hedges

Date

27th March 2025

Matthew Hedges
29 Irby Road
Ashton
Bristol

**PARISH OF BEDMINSTER
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2024**

ST FRANCIS DCC

St Francis Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts:

	2024					2023	Diff 2024 v 2023
	£	£	£	£	£		
	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2024		
Voluntary Receipts							
Planned Giving	£15,256.10				£15,256.10	£14,161.60	£1,094.50
Collections and other giving	£1,941.78				£1,941.78	£1,898.52	£43.26
Income Tax recovered	£3,119.69				£3,119.69	£5,801.29	£-2,681.60
	£20,317.57	£0.00			£20,317.57	£21,861.41	£-1,543.84
Other voluntary incoming resources							
Sundry Donations & Legacy	£6,498.94				£6,498.94	£893.44	£5,605.50
Fund Raising events	£50.00				£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
	£6,548.94	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,548.94	£893.44	£5,655.50
Income from investments							
Bank interest (Deposit Account)	£786.58				£786.58	£309.26	£477.32
	£786.58	£0.00			£786.58	£309.26	£477.32
Income from charitable and ancillary trading							
Rents	£6,740.00				£6,740.00	£6,290.00	£450.00
Fees	£655.00				£655.00	£1,644.00	£-989.00
Scramblers	£29,625.98				£29,625.98	£29,384.38	£241.60
Lunchtime Live	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£37,020.98	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£37,020.98	£37,318.38	£-297.40
Non-Recurring income							
Misc	£346.00				£346.00	£1,003.05	£-657.05
Insurance Claim	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Heating Grant	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
** SMAA Salary Cross Charge(Previous yr loan payment)	£9,147.60				£9,147.60	£4,000.00	£5,147.60
	£9,493.60	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£9,493.60	£5,003.05	£4,490.55
Total Receipts	£74,167.67	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£74,167.67	£65,385.54	£8,782.13
Payments							
Grants							
Home & Overseas mission and relief agencies	£211.49				£211.49	£184.05	£-27.44
	£211.49	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£211.49	£184.05	£-27.44
Activities directly relating to the work of the church							
Diocesan Quota	£21,600.00				£21,600.00	£19,800.00	£-1,800.00
Church running expenses	£23,593.36				£23,593.36	£23,535.98	£-57.38
Cost of services	£2,056.51				£2,056.51	£2,392.97	£336.46
Building upkeep	£2,711.99				£2,711.99	£403.18	£-2,308.81
Building Maintenance - Large Items	£0.00				£0.00	£4,531.20	£4,531.20
Fees	£392.00				£392.00	£1,593.00	£1,201.00
Sunday School/Scramblers	£677.46				£677.46	£540.91	£-136.55
	£51,031.32	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£51,031.32	£52,797.24	£1,765.92
Church management and administration							
Administration	£4,496.60				£4,496.60	£2,668.09	£-1,828.51
Salaries ** SMAA Contribution above	£50,047.35				£50,047.35	£0.00	£-50,047.35
Other	£54.56				£54.56	£2,123.30	£2,068.74
	£54,598.51	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£54,598.51	£4,791.39	£-49,807.12
Total Payments	£105,841.32	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£105,841.32	£57,772.68	£-48,068.64
Excess/Defecit of receipts over payments	£-31,673.65	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-31,673.65	£7,612.86	£39,286.51
Transfer to/from Hall Account					£10,000.00		
Deposit Account Transfer to/from Hall Account					£0.00	£0.00	
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1st January 2024					£74,362.40	£66,749.54	£7,612.86
Prior year adjustment							
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31st December 2024					£52,688.75	£74,362.40	£-21,673.65

PARISH OF BEDMINSTER

ST FRANCIS DCC

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Parish Hall Account		
Income	£39,455.63	£43,171.16
Expenditure	£14,634.53	£48,826.48
Surplus	<u>£24,821.10</u>	<u>-£5,655.32</u>
Transfer to/from Church general accounts	-£10,000.00	£0.00
Bank current account at 1st January	£7,872.72	£13,528.04
Bank current account at 31st December	<u><u>£22,693.82</u></u>	<u><u>£7,872.72</u></u>
Loan Account - SMAA		
Advanced/ B/F balance	£0.00	£4,000.00
Repaid	£0.00	£4,000.00
Balance outstanding	<u><u>£0.00</u></u>	<u><u>£0.00</u></u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st December 2024

Assets	General Fund	Hall Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023		Prior yr
				Total	Movement in Funds held	
Bank current account	£3,333.45		£3,333.45	£25,793.68	-£22,460.23	£7,303.60
Bank deposit account	£24,329.15		£24,329.15	£23,981.26	£347.89	£286.40
National Savings Investment account	£25,026.15		£25,026.15	£24,587.46	£438.69	£22.86
Hall Fund		£22,693.82	£22,693.82	£7,872.72	£14,821.10	-£5,655.32
SMAA Loan Balance			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	-£4,000.00
	<u>£52,688.75</u>	<u>£22,693.82</u>	<u>£75,382.57</u>	<u>£82,235.12</u>	<u>-£6,852.55</u>	<u>-£2,042.46</u>
			£0.00	£0.00		
			£0.00	£0.00		
	<u><u>£52,688.75</u></u>	<u><u>£22,693.82</u></u>	<u><u>£75,382.57</u></u>	<u><u>£82,235.12</u></u>	<u><u>-£6,852.55</u></u>	<u><u>-£2,042.46</u></u>

0.00

Accounts



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St Francis Ashton Gate

21st April 2024

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Clergy report

As I write this report for my first full year with you, I am so thankful for all that we have seen and done together. Our Sunday services have developed and we have started a new evening worship space. We have welcomed new people to the church and we have welcomed back others that have returned. We have also welcomed guests to the church as we have baptised a number of children in our morning services. We have prayed together as we develop our weekly rhythm of prayer on a Tuesday and Thursday morning. We have tried some new ventures and we have re-established some old traditions.

During Lent, we reflected together on the parable of the Prodigal Son, looking at each of the main characters and the specifics of the gifts that were given to the son on his return. During Easter, alongside the already established routines of Holy Week, we gathered for Holy week reflections, a Passover meal, a cross walk from St Michaels, a Good Friday service on the lawn outside church and a sunrise service on the Northern Slopes.

In the Autumn term, we welcomed new team members to the church with Grace Wilson (CYM student) joining us on placement working with children, youth and families and Sophie Brown (Trinity student) joined us for the final

two years of the vicar training. On our Vision Sunday, we returned to one of our key passages and the values we are beginning to inhabit around discipleship, community and services. The emphasis of the vision talk, though, reminded us that these values flow out of our relationship with God and our response to 'Jesus is the Christ.' In our teaching series, we looked at how we connect with God, to grow and develop our relationship with him through prayer. We also had evenings looking at big questions like; who is God? and what is the bible?

During Advent, facilitated by Andrew, we reflected on daily passages as we prepared for Christmas. As part of our Christmas celebration, we invited Ashton Gate Primary School across for the Christmas Experience and welcomed new team members alongside the existing team. We also joined the RE lessons at Ashton Vale School to look at the Christmas Story and the Christingle. We have gathered harvest produce for the local foodbank, collected Christmas Shoeboxes for the Christmas appeal and welcomed the local community into the building for discussion around housing, health and employment.

In the book of Zechariah, God calls the people to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem and in Chapter 4 he says to them that 'they are not to despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin..' God has so much more for us over the coming years but I am so thankful for all that we have seen in this last year.

Licensed Lay Ministers

The LLM's Sally and Andrew have continued to have the honour and privilege to serve both St Francis and St Michael and All Angels churches in the last year. We are grateful for the continued support and encouragement that we receive from both churches.

The past year has seen us both expanding our ministry horizons as we have got to grips with the new technology needed to produce services for the screen, and in Andrew's case the learning of and taking on a funeral ministry. We have been involved in reflections for special services, and hope that has been a welcome addition for you. We both also undertook a learning opportunity with the LLM conference which gave us new understandings of discipleship, we hope that all of this will help us to serve you better in the future.

As always our ministry with you involves prayer, and we are always willing to either pray for the church families for issues we are aware of, or on a one to one basis at any time, do please speak with us if you have any concerns that you want prayer for.

Our hope is to continue to connect closely with all of you, to help you through our preaching and teaching ministries, and to enjoy more times of fellowship with you through the various events held in the churches.

God bless all of you.

Sally and Andrew

Churchwardens

There were no major changes to the fabric of the church and hall in 2023.

We had the carpet and chairs professionally cleaned during the holidays when Scramblers weren't meeting.

We began the year still in interregnum and just got on with things as we usually do. We are very thankful to the leadership team, PCC, Phil Neale for the excellent preparation for services, for Pam for the rotas and music and all who helped keep the church ticking over.

We were very excited to be given a date at the end of January 2023 for Rev Neil Shepherd's Licensing as Priest in Charge of St Francis and St Michaels. It was a lovely service and we worked together with the congregation of St Michaels to help organize the service and refreshments. We are very grateful for the relationship we have with them and very much look forward to working alongside them in the future.

Neil just got on with things from the start without needing much help and advice, obviously using his teaching organizational skills to keep us in check. It is good to note that he sees pastoral care and mission as a priority and brings fun and enthusiasm to the Parochial Church Council.

We have seen some growth at St Francis during this year with new people attending, some on a regular basis. We have always ensured they receive a warm welcome and they are given a welcome card to complete to enable us to keep in touch with them.

It is exciting that we are open to trying new things whilst still maintaining our traditional worship. This makes us unique, and we are very proud of the way we adapt. We still have two traditional communion services per month, a lay led service taken by Andrew Josham or Sally Tooze and of course the all age service with the Cheeky Pandas on the second Sunday of the month, We are really appreciative of the work Sally, Andrew and Jennifer Richards puts in to make these services possible. It has been lovely to see the younger people taking part in these services. Neil has also introduced a more contemporary service every other Sunday and this has attracted people from other churches within the Bristol South Deanery.

On Maundy Thursday Neil and Natalie organized a Passover Meal at St Francis and this was extremely well received and the feedback very positive, so we are hoping to make this an annual event. On Good Friday we had a walk of witness carrying the cross through Bedminster from St Michaels to St Francis ending with a very moving service on the lawn where we were invited to place flowers on the cross. This was very moving and some passersby joined in too.

We have held several social events in the year. We opened the church to show the Coronation of King Charles in May and one gentleman came along because he doesn't have a television at home. It was good we were open and welcoming. The following day we had a party with a quiz and games which was fun, and we are grateful to all who helped organize these.

We continued our role as a collection Centre for Operation Christmas Child and are very grateful to all who packed shoeboxes and got involved and engaged with this Missional Opportunity. We thank the Scramblers team Annie and Louise who were on hand every morning during collection week to receive the shoeboxes from Scramblers as well as the local community and oversee the collection of the shoeboxes on the next part of their journey. The conversations we had with people were amazing and the packing party proved a great success as we encouraged people, particularly the young ones, to personalize their boxes by writing a short note and placing a picture in their boxes.

Christmas through the Keyhole happened again in early December, and we are extremely grateful to Mary who took the lead on this with her organizational skills. The year 2 children and their teachers from Ashton Gate School were really engaging. We were unable to source a new baby for the Nativity Scene this year so began with a dolly although a much more grown-up baby Jesus did

take part later (Thank you Maddie) We had fun and fellowship dressing as characters from the Nativity and also opened the church on the Saturday morning for members of the public.

Unfortunately, our dear Phil Neale has not been well so has been unable to get to church. We are so grateful to him for all he has done for the church, and I personally am grateful to Chris who has stepped up to take on some of the tasks such as organizing services.

We have been blessed with having Trinity student Sophie and youth worker Grace come to join us and are excited that Anthony Everitt will be joining us early 2024 as Associate Priest.

We are thankful for all the things which have happened and look forward to working out Gods plan for St Francis in the future.

Joanne Smith

Christopher Allen

Churchwardens

Finance

The total church giving increased slightly from 2022, as did the overall church income which includes rentals. Unfortunately expenditure has also increased and this is mainly down to our utility bills which rose by over 50%.

Scramblers continues to go from strength to strength with their income increasing by over £3,000.

We have once again increased our parish share contribution this year by 32% and our loan to St Michael's and All Angels has been repaid.

Hall rental has reduced due to the loss of some of our regular renters. Also one of our major contributors for many years gave notice of stopping at the start of 2024. However we are hopeful to see an upturn in hall usage following the appointment of Helen the church administrator who, as part of her remit, will be actively marketing the hall. Like the church the hall's expenditure has also increased with utility costs being the main factor.

Overall at the end of 2022 we had a total of £84,000 in all accounts and at the end of 2023 we had £82,000 which is a £2,000 drop. So while the church

finances are currently in a good state, we need to be careful with expenditure increasing and hall income reducing, also the quinquennial inspection is due in 2024 with whatever that brings. With this in mind we are trying to plan and understand expenses on a more ongoing basis by setting budgets for the various aspects of church spend, especially as in previous years the hall has helped to prop up the church finances, but this is now no longer the case.

From Anita Manning, Treasurer

[also see audited accounts as an additional document]

Scramblers

I would like to start by thanking Louise, Malcolm & our amazing volunteers for ensuring another outstanding year of providing this vital supportive community group.

Our volunteers this year have been stable with Mary, Jude, Martha, Elaine & Zoe. Sarah Brady, a scramblers mum, was our volunteer on Fridays but stepped down. We were delighted that Zoe Ireland offered to replace her. Martha returned to her home country, Ecuador, as usual for 6 months and Elaine, our reserve helper has stepped into her place until she returns. Mo, our volunteer with educational needs from 'Your Way' Charity, retired after 10 years' service.

We continue to offer a safe, warm and welcoming space for all parents/carers and their little ones. The number of families attending has been gradually increasing since covid and this year we were back to our usual pre covid numbers of an average of 40 families per session. We have seen an increase in grandparents and dads attending.

Some of the extra events we organised in 2023 included: Mr. Brown's Puppet show, Noah's Ark Zoo animals meet & greet, Pancake Day party, Creation Station craft sessions with Janey Noble & Katrina Forster, professional sleep mentor offering free consultations. Louise and I also tried storytelling for the first time with 'The very hungry caterpillar' during circle time. This worked very well, the children loved Louise dressed as a caterpillar. We are planning further storytelling.

We had a fabulous party in October to celebrate 30 years of scramblers and were very grateful to Jo for giving a talk and explaining how her pioneering

mum, Margaret, started scramblers all those years ago. Scramblers parents, as usual, contributed generously to the shoebox appeal and we packed a record number this year. Similarly, the trolley for the Harvest appeal for the foodbank was generously filled.

This year for All Hallows we held a 'light party' with a buffet and invited a special guest 'Elsa from Frozen' from a costumed character company. This was exceptionally well attended and enjoyed very much by the families.

We supported Evita, a Bristol University student with research and Hamid, an NHS Child development student with observations. We continue our relationship with Mother's for mothers (perinatal mental health support group who meet in Church on Thursday afternoons) and this year allowed free entry to any of their group attending Scramblers.

At the end of the summer term our crew met with the scramblers on the hill crew for a fellowship lunch.

Our huge new toy store was completed by Stephen, which has made a big difference for ease of storage, especially as the number of toys has increased. Louise showcased her artistic talents by painting the mural. As well as the carpet and chairs being cleaned this year, we held toy cleaning sessions to which we invited volunteers & families to make a big chore much easier. We also had new posters printed for the A-boards.

This year we initiated 'blessing week' and invited families to receive a blessing from Neil. Even though our Facebook page now has over 3K members, where we post events, we also provided a paper copy of scheduled events for each term which was very well received. This ensures families without social media are kept informed and we will continue to produce an events sheet termly.

Christmas was a great success. Parties were held every day in the final week of term and were sold out way in advance. We were overwhelmed with help from everyone; from 'cuppa and a chat group' wrapping gifts to our amazing volunteer Father Christmas's: Chris, Wally, Pam's son-in-law, Mike and Malcolm. The bring your own baby choir also kindly volunteered to serenade us with festive songs.

Our year finished with the volunteers Christmas party at the Malago to which we invited Sam & volunteers from Scramblers on the Hill. A small reward for the invaluable help they selflessly give to scramblers all year.

We praise God that He continues to bless us, the families and everyone involved.

Please continue to pray for us

Annie Tyas , Scramblers .

Safeguarding

There are no safeguarding concerns or incidents to report.

Safeguarding is an important part of making the church a safe place for all. Without the team of Dianne Allen (Parish Safeguarding Officer) and Helen Rumford (Parish Administrator/ DBS Administrator) we would not be able to achieve this. This team has been working to ensure that all those requiring checks and training have been, or are in the process of, getting trained appropriately. On the noticeboards around church, you will find the requirements with you are concerned about a safeguarding situation, please ensure you are aware of what you will need to do.

Independent Examiner's Report
to the Parochial Church Council of St Francis Church, Ashton Gate, Bristol

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions give by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date

7/4/24

Matthew Hedges
29 Irby Road
Ashton
Bristol

**PARISH OF BEDMINSTER
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023**

ST FRANCIS DCC

St Francis Receipts and Payments Accounts

	2023					2022
	£	£	£	£	£	
	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund		
Receipts:						
Voluntary Receipts						
Planned Giving	£14,161.60				£14,161.60	£13,551.40
Collections and other giving	£1,898.52				£1,898.52	£1,778.22
Income Tax recovered	£5,801.29				£5,801.29	£0.00
	£21,861.41	£0.00			£21,861.41	£15,329.62
Other voluntary incoming resources						
Sundry Donations & Legacy	£893.44				£893.44	£1,066.58
Fund Raising events	£0.00				£0.00	£435.97
Leaving Collections						
	£893.44	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£893.44	£1,502.55
Income from investments						
Bank interest (Deposit Account)	£309.26				£309.26	£54.03
	£309.26	£0.00			£309.26	£54.03
Income from charitable and ancillary trading						
Rents	£6,290.00				£6,290.00	£4,987.50
Fees	£1,644.00				£1,644.00	£816.00
Scramblers	£29,384.38				£29,384.38	£25,933.70
Lunchtime Live	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
	£37,318.38	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£37,318.38	£31,737.20
Non-Recurring income						
Misc	£1,003.05				£1,003.05	£488.74
Insurance Claim	£0.00				£0.00	£11,696.95
Heating Grant	£0.00				£0.00	£3,834.00
SMAA Loan Repayment	£4,000.00				£4,000.00	£3,000.00
	£5,003.05	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,003.05	£19,019.69
Total Receipts	£65,385.54	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£65,385.54	£67,643.09
Payments						
Grants						
Home & Overseas mission and relief agencies	£184.05				£184.05	£129.70
	£184.05	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£184.05	£129.70
Activities directly relating to the work of the church						
Diocesan Quota	£19,800.00				£19,800.00	£15,000.00
Church running expenses	£23,535.98				£23,535.98	£14,181.74
Cost of services	£2,392.97				£2,392.97	£3,303.27
Building upkeep	£403.18				£403.18	£1,577.98
Building Maintenance	£4,531.20				£4,531.20	£13,903.95
Fees	£1,593.00				£1,593.00	£224.00
Sunday School/Scramblers	£540.91				£540.91	£610.00
	£52,797.24	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£52,797.24	£48,800.94
Church management and administration						
Administration	£2,668.09				£2,668.09	£2,679.14
Other	£2,123.30				£2,123.30	£1,827.40
	£4,791.39	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,791.39	£4,506.54
Loan to SMAA						
Total Payments	£57,772.68	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£57,772.68	£53,437.18
Excess/Defecit of receipts over payments	£7,612.86	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7,612.86	£14,205.91
Transfer to (from) Hall Account						-£12,000.00
Deposit Account Transfer to (from) Hall Account					£0.00	£0.00
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1st January 2023					£66,749.54	£64,543.63
Prior year adjustment						
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31st December 2023					£74,362.40	£66,749.54

PARISH OF BEDMINSTER

ST FRANCIS DCC

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Parish Hall Account		
Income	£43,171.16	£46,396.15
Expenditure	£48,826.48	£45,646.38
Surplus	-£5,655.32	£749.77
Transfer to (from) church general accounts	£0.00	£12,000.00
Bank current account at 1st January	£13,528.04	£778.27
Bank current account at 31st December	<u>£7,872.72</u>	<u>£13,528.04</u>
Loan Account - SMAA		
Advanced/ B/F balance	£4,000.00	£7,000.00
Repaid	£4,000.00	£3,000.00
Balance outstanding	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£4,000.00</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st December 2023

Assets	General Fund	Hall Fund	SMAA Loan	Total 2023	Movement in Funds held	
					Total 2022	
Bank current account	£25,793.68			£25,793.68	£18,490.08	£7,303.60
Bank deposit account	£23,981.26			£23,981.26	£23,694.86	£286.40
National Savings Investment account	£24,587.46			£24,587.46	£24,564.60	£22.86
Hall Fund		£7,872.72		£7,872.72	£13,528.04	-£5,655.32
SMAA Loan Balance			£0.00	£0.00	£4,000.00	-£4,000.00
	<u>£74,362.40</u>	<u>£7,872.72</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£82,235.12</u>	<u>£84,277.58</u>	
				£0.00	£0.00	
				£0.00	£0.00	
	<u>£74,362.40</u>	<u>£7,872.72</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£82,235.12</u>	<u>£84,277.58</u>	<u>-£2,042.46</u>

Independent Examiner's Report
to the Parochial Church Council of St Francis Church, Ashton Gate, Bristol

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date

7/4/24

Matthew Hedges
29 Irby Road
Ashton
Bristol

**PARISH OF BEDMINSTER
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023**

ST FRANCIS DCC

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PARISH OF BEDMINSTER

ST FRANCIS DCC

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Hall Fund		£7,872.72		£7,872.72	£13,528.04	-£5,655.32
SMAA Loan Balance			£0.00	£0.00	£4,000.00	-£4,000.00
	<u>£74,362.40</u>	<u>£7,872.72</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£82,235.12</u>	<u>£84,277.58</u>	
				£0.00	£0.00	
				£0.00	£0.00	
	<u>£74,362.40</u>	<u>£7,872.72</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£82,235.12</u>	<u>£84,277.58</u>	<u>-£2,042.46</u>